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### UM vice president resigns to return to alma mater

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Sept. 21, 2000

### **UM VICE PRESIDENT RESIGNS TO RETURN TO ALMA MATER**

#### **MISSOULA -**

V. Scott Cole, vice president for administration and finance at The University of Montana, resigned Thursday to return to Arizona State University and a newly created administrative position there.

Cole was chief planning officer at ASU in Tempe when UM hired him to lead administration and finances here in July 1998. He will return to ASU Nov. 1 as assistant vice provost for facilities management, wrapping up his duties at UM by mid-October.

"This just dropped in my lap," Cole said Thursday during a break from the Board of Regents meeting in Butte, where Lois Muir, University provost and vice president for academic affairs, had just announced his resignation.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "They made me an offer I couldn't refuse. I wasn't out looking (for another job)."

Muir is overseeing UM business in President George Dennison's absence. Dennison is in France until Oct. 2 attending a board meeting of the International Student Exchange Program. Muir said no decision has been made about a replacement for Cole.

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“Scott Cole’s resignation represents a tremendous loss to The University of Montana,” she said. “We have been the beneficiaries of his talents for the last two years as he has initiated and moved forward a number of important projects.

“An example is a budgetary process that has instilled trust and has proven to be inclusive. As we wish him well in his new position, we also will dearly miss him. I have personally valued him as an executive colleague, and he will be difficult to replace.”

Cole is chief fiscal and administrative officer for UM’s four campuses, reporting directly to the president. He oversees Facilities Services, Human Resource Services, Business Services, the Budget Office, the Office of Public Safety and the Center at Salmon Lake.

After graduating from ASU in 1984 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, Cole was assistant director of facilities management there until 1988. He then became assistant vice president for facilities management at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, earning his master’s in administration there in 1991.

Cole served as vice president for business at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., from 1992 to 1994 before returning to Tempe to serve as a consultant in administrative and auxiliary services at ASU. He became ASU’s chief planning officer in 1996.

Cole said his wife will stay in Missoula until spring, when the couple’s daughter graduates from UM.

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